

Project Description: The Center for Changing Lives-Duluth

To be built by LSS of MN on Superior Street between 14th and 15th Avenues East

LSS will use public and private financing to construct the Center for Changing Lives-Duluth, providing 20 new centralized housing units and services for youth on a vacant parcel of land on the east edge of downtown, overlooking Lake Superior. The project has been designed to combine both services and housing for the estimated 600 homeless and at-risk of homelessness youth LSS currently serves in Duluth each year. The Duluth Center for Changing Lives is divided into three distinct but related elements:

- 1) **Services for Homeless Youth:** The first floor of the Center for Changing Lives Duluth will include service space for LSS' youth street outreach program; Truancy Action; the Wellness Center (A clinic for youth); the Life Skills program for youth aging out of foster care (called Oh No Eighteen!) and the Together for Youth Program GLBT support program. LSS will also consolidate its administrative and senior management offices for Duluth youth services in the building. LSS currently serves 600 youth in Duluth each year. The Center for Changing Lives will consolidate services under one roof, transforming an underutilized lot and creating a community asset dedicated to improving the quality of life for future generations.
- 2) **Permanent Apartments for Youth:** Ten affordable one bedroom apartments targeting young people in need of affordable housing will be constructed on the second floor of the building. Supportive services will be provided to the youth in these apartments by an LSS Service Coordinator assigned specifically to serve these residents.
- 3) **Transitional Housing/The Renaissance Program.** Ten units of transitional, supportive housing for homeless and runaway youth aged 16-20 will be constructed on the third floor. The single bedrooms will be built around a common living, dining, kitchen and lounge area. This secured entry space will also include two offices where residents can meet with case managers to develop individual action plans for education, employment and other goals. The third floor will be staffed with LSS staff on a 24 hour basis/7 days a week.

A three story elevator building will be built on a vacant site now used for parking. Building finishes are designed as an acknowledgement of the natural materials and context of the north shore, including horizontal wood siding interspersed with architectural veneer precast vertical elements. Brick veneer accents will be featured throughout. Large banks of vertical and horizontal windows echo the paneling design and help visually divide the building facade along East Superior Street. Plate glass and aluminum street level elements bring sunlight, are welcoming to visitors and activate the street level. The building design allows for both levels to take advantage of the stunning views of Lake Superior adjacent to the property's southern perimeter; with a large, landscaped patio; and courtyard with a labyrinth garden feature on the first floor.